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Public Health Reports

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UNITED STATES.

THE STEAMSHIP NIPPON MARU AT ANGEL ISLAND QUARANTINE.

As stated in PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS No. 27, July 7, page 1066, the Japanese steamship *Nippon Maru* had 2 deaths from plague on the voyage from Hongkong before reaching Honolulu, 1 May 26 and 1 June 14. She left Honolulu June 20 for San Francisco and reached that port June 27. Two days after leaving Honolulu a case suspicious of plague occurred, and died two days before reaching San Francisco, and was buried at sea, but on arrival all were well. She was detained at Angel Island Quarantine, the passengers landed, and the vessel disinfected and released June 29 under a new crew. All passengers were detained at quarantine for fifteen days' observation. June 28, 2 Japanese stowaways, in attempting to evade the immigration laws and the customs patrol which had been established around the vessel, jumped overboard and were drowned, but their bodies were recovered. These men were perfectly healthy. July 6, the owners of the *Nippon Maru* requested permission to put the old crew aboard at quarantine and at once proceed to Japan, and the permission was granted. All passengers detained at quarantine have remained well to the present, and the medical officer in command reported that they would be discharged on July 11 and 12.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

El Paso, Tex.—Sanitary Inspector E. Alexander reports that during the week ended July 1, 1899, no passengers arrived on the Mexican Central from Tampico and Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Laredo, Tex.—Act. Assist. Surg. H. J. Hamilton reports July 2: Travel from Mexico during the month of June was much less than during month of May. I received a communication from office of United States consul-general at Monterey as to requirements of health or noninfection certificate. I forwarded him a form such as I inclose to you which I believe covers all requirements. I also inclose the kind he has been giving. I worded the form so that it would cover persons coming from noninfectible points as Orizaba, Puebla, etc., but such persons might possibly be exposed to infection by occupying railroad coaches which run from Vera Cruz to Mexico City through the above-named places. I also sent a copy to United States consul-general at Mexico City, as there is a place for the description of the person to whom issued which I deem essential. The United States consul at San Luis Potosi was also sent a blank form. All regulations are being carried out.

July 3, I have the honor to submit the following report for week ended July 1, 1899:

International foot and tramway bridge report for week ended July 1: deported, 4; inspected and allowed entry including immigrants, 2,531; total inspected, 2,535. The majority of immigrants inspected by me was at the international foot bridge.

I allow no one to enter without satisfactory evidence of their whereabouts for the ten days preceding their appearance at the frontier. It is now pretty generally known, and not many present themselves without the necessary evidence. Six were deported during the week ended July 1, 2 of whom acknowledged being only three days out from Tampico, Mexico. The other 4 claimed not to have been in an infected locality for the ten days preceding inspection, but could not produce any evidence except their own oath, so I told them they would have to remain at Nuevo-Laredo, Mexico, or some other noninfected place until they could produce a United States consular certificate. I hope that Acting Assistant Surgeon Turpin will be able to keep track of persons from Vera Cruz intending to enter the United States. In April the State of Texas appointed agents to watch passenger traffic from Tampico and Vera Cruz. Not one person reported by them ever passed this quarantine station, as we still have the lists sent here and the names of all persons who have entered. Of course, there have been persons through here from Tampico and Vera Cruz, but, strange to say, we did not have their names on our reported list, but detected them by other means, viz, trunks, etc., and all were detained and baggage disinfected.

July 5: On June 21 I sent the officers of Mexican National Railroad a copy of the necessary requirements for passengers entering the United States at Laredo, Tex. I also sent a copy to the Bureau. They at once had their surgeons issue health or noninfection certificates. Last week the United States consul at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, showed me a communication from the United States consul-general, stating that all persons from Mexico to the United States required a certificate from United States consuls as to noninfection, which were to be issued free. He was to inform the railroad company, and also obtain from me the necessary requirements called for by the quarantine regulations. I gave the consul the necessary information. About that time a passenger on a train from Mexico City informed me, in the presence of the State quarantine officer, that he obtained his noninfection certificate from the railroad agent in Mexico, and had not seen the physician whose name was signed to certificate. The next day, this passenger told the same story, and that

there had been some arrangement made with the doctor who signed the certificate. I at once wrote to railroad company's surgeon at Monterey and Mexico City, stating that the State Department had instructed the United States consuls that persons from Mexico would be required to have a consular certificate, which would be supplied free, therefore a certificate from them was unnecessary, and to direct persons desiring certificates of noninfection to United States consul.

The railroad company, it appears, does not think that United States consular certificates are necessary as per inclosed slip from Monterey Globe, Mexico, of July 5, but notwithstanding, I expect passengers to give me satisfactory evidence, and will consider railroad company's certificates for what they are worth; some are good, others are not. I have written Marine-Hospital Service representative at Mexico City as to the value of railroad company's certificate from that place. The railroad company thinks that I am more exacting than at other railroad ports of entry, although I inform them what is required of passengers coming from Mexico, and I treat all passengers courteously. Passengers blame railroad company for not informing them of quarantine requirements, but as a rule they have evidence (not necessarily certificates) of their whereabouts. I think, under the circumstances, that persons should get their certificates from persons not connected with railroads over which they purchase tickets.

OREGON.

Report on smallpox in Portland.

PORTLAND, OREG., June 29, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that another case of smallpox was admitted to the county hospital to-day, making 4 cases that have been found in the city up to this time. Only 1 of these cases, however, contracted the disease in Portland. The others represent widely separated sections of the country, namely, Newberg, Oreg., Winter's Camp, on the Snake River, and Seattle, Wash. It is a mild type of the disease, and those stricken so far will recover.

Respectfully, yours,

RUPERT BLUE,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

PORTO RICO.

Sanitary report from Ponce.

PONCE, PORTO RICO, June 26, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith the quarantine report and abstract of bills of health report for the week ended June 24.

The week has been an unusually quiet one, so far as the shipping is concerned, and there is nothing of interest to report.

Brigadier-General Davis and staff paid an official visit of inspection to Ponce during the early part of the week. By his orders some much-needed help was extended to the local sanitary authorities. He also gave orders to have built for me a temporary disinfecting room on the Government dock here.

The general health of Ponce continues good, and there are no infectious diseases reported this week.

Respectfully yours,

C. H. LAVINDER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.